

# DREF operation update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Central African Republic: Violent winds in Kembe, Grimari, Zangba, Mboki, Obo and Mbaïki **No cost extension**

DREF operation n° MDRCF005  
GLIDE n° VW-2009-000082-CFA  
Update n° 01  
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The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

**Period covered by this update:** 04 May to 30 June, 2009.

**Summary:** CHF 81,924 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 04 May, 2009 to support the Central African Red Cross Society in delivering assistance to some 1,230 beneficiaries.

This update highlights the activities that have been carried out in the field since the launching of the operation. The activities include non-food items distribution, the training of Red Cross volunteers on PHAST process, and the disinfection and treatment of water points to avoid the spread of diseases. The actions taken so far have contributed to strengthening the visibility of the Central African Red Cross, and to pushing Government authorities not only to be interested in Red Cross activities, but also to get them involved in Red Cross actions within the country. This was demonstrated through the efforts made by Government authorities to find new premises for the local committees of the Central African Red Cross society (CARCS) affected by the violent winds.

This operation was expected to be implemented over 02 months, and completed by 04 July, 2009. However, the Central African Red Cross Society experienced serious difficulties that made it hard to respect this timeframe. The NS had underestimated the fuel cost during the planning. This hampered the implementation of the operation in the remaining two localities of Obo and Mboki, due to lack of funds for fuel. The President of the Central African Red Cross Society promised to find a solution to that issue and that all the targeted beneficiaries will be reached by the end of August 2009. The NS has already transported the remaining materials to Obo and Mboki with the support of the Government, and the distribution is expected to be completed by the end of August 2009.



Some non-food items distributed to people affected in Grimari. Albert Mberi (RDRT)/International Federation

Moreover, serious flooding occurred in Bangui, the Capital city, from the second half of June to early July 2009, and this drew the attention of the NS' limited disaster management team that could no longer concentrate only on the violent winds. Consequently, this DREF Operation Update No 1 seeks to extend the timeframe of this operation from 4 July to 31st August 2009. In line with Federation reporting standards, the Final Report (narrative and financial) is due 90 days after the end of the operation (by 30 November, 2009).

The Netherlands Red Cross contributed CHF 22,672 to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

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## The situation

Following the occurrence of violent winds in the Kembe, Grimari, Zangba, Mboki, Obo and Mbaïki localities, the CARCS received funds from the International Federation's DREF to assist 1,230 affected people. The operation started with a short delay. So far, four localities out of the six that were affected, namely Mbaïki, Grimari, Kembe and Zangba have been assisted. In these four localities, non-food items like tarpaulins, mats, soap, cooking kits, toilet kits and blankets were distributed to the beneficiaries who appreciated the gesture and Government authorities too.

The operation has been somehow disturbed by certain factors including the failure to respect the work schedule. This was due to the fact that affected localities are very far from each other, and that the NS does not have enough logistics means (cars, fuel and lubricants) to facilitate the implementation of the plan of action. The NS had underestimated the fuel cost during the planning, and now finds it very difficult to implement the operation in the remaining two localities of Obo and Mboki, because of lack of funds for fuel. However, the President of the CARCS promised to look for a solution to that problem, and that by the end of the operation they will have reached all the targeted beneficiaries.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Mbaïki Member of Parliament, the divisional and sub divisional officers of Grimari and Mbaïki, and the council authorities and the heads of the Grimari and Mbaïki neighbourhoods have all contributed to the success of the operation. The Member of Parliament put his car (pick-up) at the disposal of the operation for the transportation of relief materials to Mbaïki. The other personalities named above facilitated the updating of lists of beneficiaries and their mobilization, and also facilitated the distribution of non-food items as they were present during the operation.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Progress towards objectives

#### Relief distributions (basic non-food items)

**Objective: To contribute to improving the living conditions of at least 246 most vulnerable families, i.e. 1,230 people affected by violent winds in Kembe, Zangba, Grimari, Mboki, Obo and Mbaïki.**

#### Activities planned:

- Purchase the items to be distributed: 615 blankets, 492 impregnated mosquito nets, 615 mats, 246 tarpaulins, 246 cooking kits, and take them to the affected localities;
- Distribute these items to the 246 vulnerable families identified; and
- Produce a report of the distribution.

#### Progress:

The International Federation's Regional Representation in Yaoundé facilitated the purchase of the relief materials to be distributed and put them at the disposal of the CARCS for distribution. These materials included 615 blankets, 492 impregnated mosquito nets, 615 mats, 246 tarpaulins and 246 cooking kits.

The NS mobilized 120 Red Cross volunteers and trained them on distribution techniques, on the basis of 30 volunteers in Grimari, 30 in Kembe, 30 in Zangba and 30 in Mbaïki. These trained volunteers then distributed the non-food items put at their disposal to 180 families, i.e. 900 beneficiaries, on the basis of 202 beneficiaries in Kembe, 270 in Grimari, 273 in Zangba, and 155 in Mbaïki. The items distributed included 180 tarpaulins, 374 blankets, 343 mosquito nets, 414 mats, 162 cooking kits, 101 toilet kits, and 1,800 pieces of soap of 200g each. The assistance to the remaining 330 persons is ongoing in the last two areas, namely Obo and Mboki. In addition to what was purchased using DREF funds, part of the items distributed were made available by local personalities following the advocacy activity carried out by the NS. The items distributed contributed to protecting the beneficiaries from bad weather and the risk of being contaminated by opportunistic diseases. Government appreciated Red Cross action and commended the efforts made to help save lives.

### **Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion**

**Objective: To facilitate the access of the affected populations to potable water, and promote hygiene and sanitation rules in the Kembe, Zangba, Grimari, Mboki, Obo and Mbaïki localities.**

**Activities planned:**

- Purchase and transport sanitation and female hygiene kits, including 120 hygiene kits; 2,460 pieces of soap of 200g each, and six water point treatment kits to the six localities affected.
- Retrain Red Cross volunteers on water point treatment and on disaster prevention (risk reduction) measures;
- Treating 360 water points in the various localities affected;
- Sensitize the populations to hygiene and sanitation rules;
- Advocate before other actors on behalf of the affected populations; and
- Produce the report on the activities carried out.

**Progress:**

The International Federation's Regional Representation in Yaoundé facilitated the purchasing and transportation of sanitation kits to Bangui, and put them at the disposal of the CARCS. The National Society (NS) then ensured the transportation of these materials to Mbaïki, Grimari, Zangba and Kembe. The sanitation kits included 101 toilet kits; 1,800 pieces of soap of 200g each; and four water point treatment kits. The remaining materials are still at the NS' headquarters awaiting availability of an opportunity to be transported to Mboki and Obo, the last two localities targeted by this operation.

The NS mobilized 120 Red Cross volunteers and trained them on how to treat water points and prevent the outbreak of water borne diseases, on the basis of 30 volunteers in Grimari, 30 in Kembe, 30 in Zangba and 30 in Mbaïki. These trained volunteers then treated and improved 56 water points with the participation of community volunteers, on the basis of 21 water points treated in Grimari, 11 in Mbaïki, 15 in Zangba and nine in Kembe. The volunteers conducted 12 sensitization sessions to help prevent the outbreak of water borne diseases, and carried out clean-up campaigns in each of the affected localities, with the participation of the beneficiaries themselves.

**Challenges:**

The distances between the various affected localities are too long and it was very difficult to reach all the beneficiaries in time as initially planned. Moreover, the NS had underestimated the transportation costs of the operation (fuel and lubricants), thus they have not yet been able to go to Obo and Mboki. This explains why they need additional funding. However, the NS is currently negotiating with local partners to provide these funds.

Most of the water points that had been identified to be treated or improved have been destroyed by the ongoing heavy rains; thus it will be very difficult to pursue the treatment of water wells until the end of the rainy season (by late October 2009).

## How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

## Contact information

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